

## NEXT STEP QUESTIONS

1. Spend seven minutes discussing this week's talk. What was something that resonated with you?
2. How much easier is your life when you invest in good friends? Read Proverbs 18:24, 27:17, 12:26 and 13:20.
3. Have you ever had a true friend that you could count on no matter what? What made that friend different?
4. What are the barriers to being a friend and making true friends? Read John 15:13 and Proverbs 20:6.
5. If God is your best friend, then why is it difficult to communicate with Him as a friend? Read James 4:8, John 15:15 and Revelation 3:20.
6. When was the last time you shared what God has done for you with someone who really needs a true friend?

### Action Step:

During your first seven minutes each morning, ask the Holy Spirit to share the name of someone that needs a closer friendship with Him and with whom you could share the story of how Jesus has impacted your life. Actively look for someone in your life who needs a friend (i.e...someone who is hurting or struggling) and introduce them to Jesus by being an example of Christ to them.



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# Masterpiece

Get  
Ready

May 4-5, 2019  
Charlie Salmon

## Friends

*For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.*  
Ephesians 2:10 NLT

*"A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything."*  
Luke 15:13-16 NLT

## WHY the Right Friends are Worth More Than Gold

*Some friends don't help, but a true friend is closer than your own family.*  
Proverbs 18:24 CEV

*"I have no duty to be anyone's Friend and no man in the world has a duty to be mine. No claims, no shadow of necessity. Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy, like art, like the universe itself (for God did not need to create). It has no survival value: rather it is one of those things which give value to survival."*

C.S. Lewis, The Four Loves

Biblical friends will help you:

1. \_\_\_\_\_—Real Life
2. \_\_\_\_\_ in Life
3. \_\_\_\_\_—Emotional Intelligence
4. \_\_\_\_\_ in Life

**WHERE** do I get friends like this?

*The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense.*  
Proverbs 27:9 NLT

"Friendship...is born at the moment when one man says to another  
"What! You too? I thought that no one but myself..."  
C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*

"That is why those pathetic people who simply 'want friends' can never make any. The very condition of having Friends is that we should want something else besides Friends. Where the truthful answer to the question Do you see the same truth? would be 'I see nothing and I don't care about the truth: I only want a Friend', no Friendship can arise—though Affection of course may. There would be nothing for the Friendship to be about: and Friendship must be about something, even if it were only an enthusiasm for dominoes or white mice. Those who have nothing can share nothing; those who are going nowhere can have no fellow-travelers."  
C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*

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**HOW** do I get friends like this?

A. \_\_\_\_\_!

*A man that has friends must show himself friendly.*  
Proverbs 18:24 AKJV

*...not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another,*  
Hebrews 10:25 ESV

B. \_\_\_\_\_

*We must bear the burden of being considerate of the doubts and fears of others...*

Romans 15:2 TLB

*If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts share its suffering. If one part is praised, all the others share in its happiness.*

1 Corinthians 12:26 GWT

C. \_\_\_\_\_

*A friend loves you all the time*

Proverbs 17:17 NCV

*Don't visit your neighbors too often; they may get tired of you and come to hate you.*

Proverbs 25:17 GNT

*If you love someone, you'll be loyal to them no matter what the cost. You will always believe in them, always expect the best, and always stand your ground in defending them.*

1 Corinthians 13:7 TLB

D. \_\_\_\_\_

*Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.*

Proverbs 27:6 NIV

*An honest answer is a sign of true friendship.*

Proverbs 24:26 CEV

*A truly good friend will openly correct you. You can trust a friend who corrects you.*

Proverbs 27:5-6 CEV

*"I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends,"*

John 15:15 NIV

**Action: Join a group. Reengage in your group. Start a group. Determine which of the four elements (time, tears, trust, or truth), your friends would say you could improve on.**

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